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Indians. The first agent at Mackinac charged \$50 each for licenses; for this practice he was sharply rebuked. (See many documents in *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, XIX.) This was also complicated with issuing licenses to foreigners. At the close of the war Astor secured from the President a suspension of the rule against issuing licenses to foreigners, and the right was given each agent to use his discretion. This led to so many abuses that in 1818 the President issued an order that no foreigner should have a license. (*Wisconsin Historical Collections*, XX, 16, 17.) All kinds of subterfuges were resorted to; some American, an ex-soldier, or any employee of American citizenship took out the license, and the real trader accompanied him as an engagé until the trading ground was reached, when the disguise was thrown off and the usual relations of "bourgeois" and "engagé" resumed.

Thus it was not until 1822 that the license matter was reduced to a definite and dependable system.

In order to find the names of Rock River traders in the period from 1816 to 1822 you will be obliged to pick up the evidence bit by bit. In *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, XII, 154-159 is published a list for 1818 of the American Fur Company employees. Those of the Illinois River are listed separately but as Rock River was supplied from Green Bay, Milwaukee, and the lower Mississippi, one cannot be sure who were definitely located on Rock River. Our own opinion is that Rock River was largely supplied by what was known as the "drouine" method (see explanation *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, XIX, 200, note 86, and XX, p. xix). For the Madison or Four Lakes region we have no account of traders earlier than 1825, although no doubt traders had been here from the time of the French régime. Old Tibault of Koshkonong and Beloit, and LeSellier from Milwaukee who traded along the Rock from the Four Lakes south were the earliest traders of whom we have any knowledge. They were both probably in this region prior to the War of 1812.

### THE FLAG OF THE FIRST WISCONSIN CAVALRY

I have recently been assisting to prepare the Civil War battle flags of Wisconsin regiments for their final resting place in glass cases, in the beautiful room allotted to the G. A. R. in this building. One of these flags (of my own regiment) is a state flag of blue silk,

with the state motto "Forward," the United States seal, and the name of the regiment, ("10th Regt. Wis. Cav."). Pinned upon this flag I found a piece of paper, on which was written these words:

"Captured by Corporal T. Goodwin, Co. C, 3d Arkansas Regt., Harrison's Brigade, Humes Division, Wheeler's Corps, Dalton and Cleveland Road, May 9th, 1864."

This was in North Georgia, at the beginning of Sherman's Atlanta campaign. I distinctly remember that battle, as I lost my cap by a flying bullet, and would have been taken prisoner if I had not had a faster horse than my pursuers, as I returned from carrying dispatches. We lost our Colonel, who was taken prisoner after having two horses shot under him, and we lost a number of others, killed, wounded, and captured.

I am specially interested to find out how this flag came to be *returned to Wisconsin* after being captured. The flag of the 21st Wis. Inf. was captured at Chickamauga, and that of the 36th Wis. at Petersburg—and both of these were returned from Richmond to Washington after the war—then from Washington to Madison in 1905. Both of these are on record in the Adjutant General's office in Washington. But that office has no record whatever of this flag of the 10th Cavalry, so it is not likely that it came that way. I can find no record of it in the State Adjutant General's office here, in any way. None of the surviving comrades of my regiment (50 or more still surviving) have any recollection about the capture or return of the flag. So I am still more anxious to know its history.

There is a large number of letters, written from the front by Wisconsin soldiers of the Civil War, now on file in the archives of the Historical Society. Also a large number of letters and other papers of the Civil War, which were formerly in the vaults of the Governor's office here. I believe these letters have been indexed in some form. Now if some of your staff can find any information about this particular flag among these papers, I shall appreciate it very much indeed. There are also some scrapbooks in the Society's library, clipped from newspapers during that war, which might possibly help. I would be glad to do this myself, but my work in the Capitol ties me up closely from 8:30 to 5 every day. You see, I want to put a historical label on the flag, giving its history, before these flags are finally sealed up in cases, which will probably be within a week or two. The dates to look for (among letters or scrapbooks) would be during the months of May and June, 1864, as the capture occurred May 9th of that year.

STANLEY E. LATHROP,  
*Madison, Wisconsin.*

I have had Dr. Oliver, who is our worker in the Civil War field at the present time, look into the material in response to your request of April 9. The clippings in the E. B. Quiner collection to which you refer do not deal with anything after December, 1862. There is nothing in them, therefore, concerning the incident in which you are interested. The collection of governors' letters has been worked for May and June, 1864, but we fail to find any mention of the capture or return of the flag.

There is no history of the regiment in the library which probably means that none has ever been published. We are not able, therefore, to find a satisfactory answer to your inquiry.

### THE SULLY PORTRAIT OF EDGAR ALLAN POE

I have been endeavoring to assist a friend of mine who has in preparation a life of Edgar Allan Poe. One of the quests we are making is to find the Sully portrait of Poe, which is well known to have been in existence, but the whereabouts of which is not now known.

This portrait was painted at Richmond, Virginia, by Robert Matthew Sully (nephew of Thomas Sully).

Inasmuch as a more or less extended and careful search in Virginia has not discovered this portrait, and as Mr. Sully and Mr. Draper had quite an extensive correspondence, and as Mr. Sully (I am informed) did considerable work for Mr. Draper, and resided some time in Madison, I am led to inquire if any such portrait happens to be, or is known in that locality.

I am not well acquainted with the details of Mr. Sully's life but I am quite certain that I have heard that, after studying abroad under Sir Thomas Lawrence, he lived some time in Madison, and died there. Such being the case, it seems most probable that the Poe portrait was there, for he and Poe were devoted boyhood friends.

Any consideration you may give this topic, and any suggestion you may make, I will very deeply appreciate.

LONDON C. BELL,  
*Columbus, Ohio.*

Robert Matthew Sully's portrait of Edgar Allan Poe is not in the museum of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, although his portraits of Black Hawk, the son of Black Hawk, White Cloud, Pocahontas, and Chief Justice John Marshall are to be found here. Mr. Sully never resided in Wisconsin. He set out from Richmond, Virginia, in the autumn of 1855 with the intention of establishing